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THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

SYNOPSIS.

Prof. Plozzi, a young scientist who in about to electrify the world with a new scientific discovery, is violently in love with Donna Marta, a ward of Mme. Sara. Vandeleur believes that he is entering a trap and informs him of his danger. He becomes angry at the interference.

Druce discovers that Mme. Sara is obtaining patents for a great invention and traces this to Plozzi's discovery. An attempt is made to poison Plozzi.

The sick man shuddered, and an expression of horror and amazement crossed his

"Who would want to take my life?" he said. "Poisoned milk! I confess I do not understand. The thing must have been accidental," he continued, feverishly, fixing his puzzled eyes on Vandeleur. Vandeleur, shook his head.

"There was no accident in this matter," ne said, with emphasis. "It was design. Deadly, too. You would not have been alive now if I had not come to you in the nick of time. It is our duty, professor, to go earefully into every circumstance in order to insure you against a further attempt on your life."

"But I do no one harm," he answered irritably. "Who could wish to take my life from me? It is impossible. You are laboring under a wrong impression."
"We will let the motive rest for the pres-

ent," replied Vandeleur. "That the attempt was made is certain. Our present object is to discover how the poison got into the milk. That is the question that must be answered and before Drice and I leave this room. Who supplies you with milk, Prof. Piozzi?" Piozzi replied by a languid motion to

Piozzi replied by a languid motion toward the bell.

"My man will tell you," he said. "I know nothing more about the matter."

The servant was summoned, and his information was brief and to the point. The professor's milk was served by the same rilkman who supplied all the other members of the mansion.

"It is brought early in the morning, sir," said the man, "and left outside the door of each flat. The houseke per opens the house door for the purpose. I take it in myself the first thing on rising."

"And the can remain outside your door with the house door open until you take it in?" said Vandeleur.

"Yes, sir, of course."

"Yes, sir, of course."
"Thank you," said Vandelsur, "That will

do."

The man left the room.
"You see, professor," remarked my friend, after the door had closed upon the servant, "how simple the matter is. Any one could drop poison into the milk—that is, of course, what somebody did. These modern arrangements don't take crime into account when a criminal means business."

The professor lay still, evidently thinking deeply. I noticed then, for the first time, that a look of age had crept over his face. It improved him, giving stability and power to features too juvenile for the mass of knowledge which that keen brain contained. His eyes were full comprehensely the state of the comprehensely that the state of th of trouble; it was evident that his meditations were the reverse of satisfactory. of trouble; it was evident that his meditations were the reverse of satisfactory. and then he put a question, which was immediately answered. At last Piozzi had when a self-evident fact stares me in the face," he said, at last. "There has been "That is it," he said; "the whole thing in

Sara the nature of your chemical discoveries?"
"Never."

"Never."

"Has she ever been here?"

"Oh, yes, many times. Last week she and Donna Marta were both here. I had a little reception for them. We enjoyed ourselves; she was delightful."

"You have several rooms in this flat, have you not, professor?"

"Three reception rooms," he answered rather wearily

rather wearily.

"And you and Donna Marta were perhaps alone in one of those rooms while Mme. Sara amused herself in another? Is

"It is," he answered, reddening. "Madame and Donna Marta remained after my other guests had gone. Madame went into my study. She said she would sit by the fire and rest."

and rest."

"Do you leave your notes locked up or lying about?"

"Always locked up. It is true the notes for my coming lecture were on that occasion on my desk."

"Ah!" interrupted Vandeleur.

"No ordinary person could make anything of them," he continued; "and even," he added, "if madame could have read them it surely would not greatly matter

he added, "if madame could have read them it surely would not greatly matter that she should know my grand secret before the rest of the world."
"Piozzi," said Vandeleur, very gravely, "I must make another request of you. Whether madame knows your secret or not, I must know it and at once. Don't hesitate, professor; your life hangs in the balance. You must tell me that with balance. You must tell me that with which you mean to electrify the Royal In-

stitute tomorrow week-now, now, at

The professor looked astonished, but Vandeleur was firm.
"I must know it," he said. "I hold myself responsible for your life. Druce," he added, turning to me, "perhaps you can get the professor to see the necessity of what I ask. Will you tell him that story which you related to me in the cale." what I ask. Will you tell him that story which you related to me in the cab?"
I did so without a moment's delay. My words were as brief as I could make them. I told him about my interview with Pollak, his excitement, his revelation of the fact that the patentee whose patent was to be secured in all countries all over the world was no less a person than Mme. Sara herself. In short, to my infinite delight, I managed to convey my suspicions to his mind. His whole attitude altered; he became excited, almost beside himself. His nervousness gave place to unexpected strength. He started to his feet and be-

gan to pace the room.

"Heavens!" he exclaimed more than once. "If indeed I have been befooled—made a dupe of—but no, it cannot be. Still, if it is, I will revenge myself on madame to the last drop of my blood."

"For the present you must only confide madame to the last drop of my blood."

"For the present you must only confide in me." said Vandeleur, laying a restraining hand on the young man's arm. "And now for your secret—it is safe with Druce and myself; we must know it."

Plozzi calmed down as suddenly as he had given way to rage. He seated himself on a sofa and began in a quiet voice: "What I have to say is simply this."

Then in terse language he poured out for Vandeleur's benefit an account of some

Vandeleur's benefit an account of some process, interlarded with formulae, equa-tions and symbols, absolutely beyond my

Vandeleur sat and listened intently. Now



"I AM SORRY TO HEAR OF HIS ILLNESS," SHE SAID.

an attempt made to poison me. But by whom? Can you tell me that, Mr. Vande-"I could give a very shrewd guess," re-

leur?"

"I could give a very shrewd guess," replied Vandeleur; "but were I to name my suspicions you would be offended."

"Forgive me for my exhibition of rage the other night," he answered, quite humbly. "Speak your mind—I shall respect you whatever you say."

"In my mind's eye," said Vandeleur, slowly, "I see a woman who has before attempted the life of those whom she was pleased to call her friends."

The professor started to his feet. Notwithstanding his vehement assertion that he would not give way to his emotions, he was trembling all over.

"You cannot mean Mme. Sara—you will change your mind—I have something to confide. Between now and last Wednesday I have been affianced to Donna Marta. Yes, we are to marry, and soon. Madame is beside herself with bliss and Donna Marta herself—Ah, I have no words to speak what my feelings are with regard to her. Madame of all people would be the last to murder me," he added, wildly, "for she loves Donna Marta."

"I am deeply sorry, professor, notwithstanding your words and the very important statement you have just made with regard to the young lady who lives with Mme. Sara, to have to adhere to my opinion that there is a very deep-laid plot on foot and that it menaces your life. I still believe that madame, notwithstanding your words, is head and center of that plot. Take my statement for what it is worth. It is, I can assure you, the only ing your words, is head and center of that plot. Take my statement for what it is worth. It is, I can assure you, the only thing that I can say. And now I must ask you a few questions, and you must have patience with me—great patience—while you reply to them. I beg of you to tell me the truth absolutely and frankly."

"I will," answered the young man. "You move me strangely. I cannot help believing in you, aithough I hate myself for allowing even one suspicious thought to fall on her."

Vandeleur rose.

a nutshell."
"Upon my word," said Vandeleur, "it is very ingenious and plausible, and may turn out of immense benefit to the world; but at the present juncture I cannot see money in it, and money is what madame wants and means to have. To be frank with you, professor, I see no earthly reason in her wanting to patent what you have just told me. But is there nothing else? Are you certain?"

"Absolutely addition."

"Absolutely nothing," was his response.
"Well," said Vandeleur, "I am puzzled.
own it. I must think matters over." He was interrupted by a loud exclamation

He was interrupted by a loud exclamation from the young man.
"You are wrong, after all, Mr. Vandeleur," he cried. "Madame means to patent something else. Why should she not have a great idea in her head quite apart from me and mine? Ah, this relieves me—it makes me happy. True, some one has tried to murder me, but it is not madame—it is not the lady whom Donna Marta leves." not the lady whom Donna Marta loves." His eyes blazed with delight. He laughed

After soothing him as best we could and trying to get a half promise that he would not see either madame or the young lady until we met again, we left him.

until we met again, we left him.

As we were walking from the house Vandeleur turned to me and said:

"I have been invited to a reception tonight at the house of our mutual friends the Lauderdales. I understand that both madame and the young lady are to be present. Would you like to come with me? I am allowed to bring a friend."

I eagerly assented. We arranged when and where to meet, and were about to part when he suddenly exclaimed:

"This is a difficult problem. I shall have no rest until I have solved it. Piozzi's discovery is ingenious and clever, but at present it is unworkable. I do not see daylight, but no loophole is to be despised that may give me what I want. Between now and our meeting this evening I will try to have an interview with Pollak. Give me his accress."

# THOUSANDS HAVE KIDNEY

Wanted-

The name of an article of

general consumption that

cannot be advertised suc-

Address "Advertising,"

Star office.

cessfully in The Star.



To Prove What Swamp-Root, the Great Kidney Remedy, Will Do for YOU, Every Reader of "The Star" May Have a Sample Bottle Sent Free by Mail.

Weak and unhealthy kidneys are responsible for more sickness and suffering than any other disease, therefore, when through neglect or other causes, kidney trouble is permitted to continue, fatal results are sure to follow.

Your other organs may need attention - but your kidneys most, because they do most and need attention first.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder remedy, because as soon as your kidneys begin to get better they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince any one.

The mild and immediate effect of Swamp-Root, the great kidney and bladder remedy, is soon realised. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. Swamp-Root cures of the most distressing cases. Swamp-Root will set your whole system right, and the best of of this is a trial.

of of this is a trial.

53 COTTAGE ST., MELROSE, MASS.
DEAR SIR:

"Ever since I was in the army I had more or less kidney trouble, and within the past year it became so severe and complicated that I suffered everything and was much alarmed—my strength and power was fast leaving me. I saw an advertisement of Swamp-Root and wrote asking for advice. I began the use of the medicine and noted a decided imprevement after taking Swamp-Root only a short time.

I continued its use and am thankful to say that I am entirely cured and strong. In order to be very sure about this, I had a doctor examine some of my water today, and he pronounced it all right and in spiendid condition.

I know that your Swamp-Root is purely vegetable and does not contain any harmful drugs. Thanking you for my complete recovery and recommending Swamp-Root to all sufferers, I am,"

Very truly yours.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Se meserful is Swamp.

Ing at the Lauderdales' beautiful house in Portland place. Wit and beauty were to be found in the gay throng, also wisdom, and a fair sprinkling of some of the most brilliant brains in London. Men of note came footgear of the choicest porpoise hide, address of the choicest porpoise hide.

face to face with one in every direction; but both Vandeleur and I were seeking

light seemed to be reflected at every point. The brilliance of her golden hair was the only distinct color about her. By her side stood Donna Marta, a tall, pale girl, almost tro slender for absolute beauty. Her grace, however, was undeniable, and, although however, was undeniable, and, although I have seen more lovely faces, this one had a singular power of attraction. When I looked at her once I wanted to look again, and when she slowly raised her luminous eyes and fixed them on my face I owned to a thrill or distinct gratification. I began to understand the possibility of Piozzi's giving himself up absolutely to her charms.

Her presence here tonight, in conjunction with Mme. Sara, produced an effect which was as astonishing as it was rare. Each acted as a perfect foil to the other, each seemed to bring out the rare fascination of her companion.

seemed to bring out the rare fascination of her companion.

Donna Marta glanced at me again; then I saw her bend toward Mme. Sara and whisper something in her ear. A moment later, to my amazement, the great lady and the slender girl were at my side.

"Mr. Drice, this is an unexpected pleasure. May I introduce you to my young cousin. Donna Marta? Is your friend, Mr. Vandeleur, also here tonight?"

"He is; I will find him." I feplied.

I darted away, returning in a moment

"He is; I will find him." I replied.

I darted away, returning in a moment with Vandeleur. He and madame moved a few paces away and began to chat in pleasant tones, just as though they were the best friends in the world.

(To be continued tomorrow.)

COURT DRESS FOR OFFICIALS. Cost \$1,000 Each - Cabinet Ministers

Have Two for State Occasions.

which custom compels him to wear at cabhave patience with me—great patience—while you reply to them. I beg of you to teil me the truth absolutely and frankly."

"I will," answered the young man. "You move me strangely. I cannot help believing in you, although I hate myself for allowing even one susplcious thought to fall on her."

Vandeleur rose.

"Tell me, Mr. Piozzi," he said, quietly, "That's gou ever communicated to Mme.

"This is a difficult problem. I shall have no rest until I have solved it. Piozzi's discovery is ingenious and clever, but at present it is unworkable. I do not see faylight, but no loophole is to be despised that may give me what I want. Between now and our meeting this evening I will try to have an interview with Pollak. Give me his accress."

I did so and we parted.

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Solving the Problem.

From the New York Weekly.

From the New

water frequently night and day, smarting or irritation in passing, brickdust or sediment in the urine, headache, backache, lame back, dizzinesa, sleeplessness, nervousness, heart disturbance due to bad kidney trouble, skin eruptions from bad blood, neuralgia, rheumatism, diabetes, bloating, irritability, wernout feeling, lack of ambition, loss of flesh, sallow complexion, or Bright's disease.

If your water, when allowed to remain undisturbed in a glass or bottle for twenty-four hours, forms a wediment or settling or has a cloudy appearance, it is evidence that your kidneys and bladder need immediate attention.

Swamp-Root is the great discovery of Dr. Kilmer, the eminent kidney and bladder specialist. Hospitals use it with wonderful success in both alight and severe cases. Doctors recommend it to their patients and use it in their own families, because they recognize in Swamp-Root the greatest and most successful remedy.

Swamp-Root is pleasant to take and is for sale at drug stores the world over in bottles of two sizes and two prices—fifty cents and one dollar, Remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle. water frequently night and day, smarting or frrf-

EDITORIAL NOTE.-So successful is Swamp-Root in promptly curing even the most distressing cases of kidney, liver or bladder troubles, that to prove its wonderful merits you may have a sample bottle and a book of valuable information, both sent absolutely free by mail. The book contains many of the thousands upon thousands of testimonial letters received from men and women cured. The value and success of Swamp-Root is so well known that our readers are advised to send for sample bottle. In sending your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure to say you read this generous offer in The Washington Evening Star. The proprietors of this paper guarantee

footgear of the choicest porpoise hide, adorned with rich silver buckles. These, with a cocked hat and a sword worn by but both Vandeleur and I were seeking one face and one alone.

We found her at last, surrounded by a throng of admirers. Madame was looking her most brilliant and I might add her youngest self. She was cressed in dazzling white and silver, and whenever she moved light seemed to be reflected at every point.

perb suit is sold for f230, and, all things considered, the price is really not exorbitant. The complete court dress of a lord chancellor costs that high dignitary the sum of f120. Compared with some of the other court dresses, it is rather unpretentious in appearance but it is made of the finest silk, exclusively woven for this purpose, and that is what makes it a rather costly garment. The correct color for the coat collar of a cabinet minister is Damascus scarlet, while the collars of some other garments vary in color, according to the scarlet while the collars of some other garments vary in color, according to the rank of the wearer, some of the foreign ambassadors wearing white and others royal blue. On these, as on other court garments, there is always bestowed a plenitude of gold thread, and they range in price from £160 to £210."

MAGNOLIA FLOWERS.

Largest That Grow on Trees - Some Bloom Before Leaves Come Out. From Country Life in America.

Magnolias are of peculiar interest because they have the largest flowers of any trees in cultivation. This is not saying that they are the showlest trees when in biossom, for an apple tree, or a flowering dogwood, may completely cover itself with blossoms. But the individual flower of such trees are relatively small, while a magnolia blossom is often six inches and sometime

foot in diameter! Magnolias have several points besides the size of the flower which make them most attractive. Certain kinds bloom be-Have Two for State Occasions.

From the Hour Glass.

"Although the king himself wears no distinctive dress in court, except for very special and particular functions," said a court dressmaker. "the very considerable retinue of distinguished personages who attend his majesty are constrained by regal etiquette to don some special dress or uniform, according to the nature of the occasion on which they make their appearance.

"For example, a cabinet minister, or any other high state official, is expected to possess at least two court uniforms, and the same number of civil or dress uniforms, which custom compels him to wear at cab-